Message

From: Huffman, Diane [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3BB875C1D1AF443D81D796A4D175095C-HUFFMAN, DIANE]
Sent: 12/18/2020 6:08:34 PM
To: Robichaud, Jeffery [Robichaud.Jeffery@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Alt En
Attachments: 10-28-2020_-_PCS_-_84069_-_DEQ_Issued_Permit_-_NPDES_INDUSTRIAL.pdf; 5-20-2020_-_IWM_-_84069_-_DEQ_Letter_-_SPECIAL_WASTE_DENIAL.pdf; 10-16-2020_-_IWM_-_84069_-_DEQ_Letter_-_SPECIAL_WASTE_DENIAL.pdf; FW: Nebraska - Lagoon Samples ; Pesticides in Ethanol Wastewater Lagoons 18Nov20.docx

<!--[if lte mso 15 || CheckWebRef]-->

Huffman, Diane has shared a OneDrive for Business file with you. To view it, click the link below.

Pesticides in Ethanol Wastewater Lagoons 18Nov20.docx

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Ex. 5 DP

According to the analysis conducted in November 2019 by the South Dakota Agricultural Laboratories for the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy, the pesticides detected in the wastewater lagoons include neonicotinoid insecticides and fungicides in the strobiluron and triazole classes, as well as two herbicides. EPA concludes that applying this water to nearby fields is likely to result in application of these compounds to farmlands at rates that far exceed the registered application rates for which EPA has conducted safety assessments for products containing these pesticides. Some of these pesticides are known to leach and may contaminate groundwater. Some may be persistent, and runoff will contaminate aquatic ecosystems. Additionally, there are systemic pesticides in these samples and based on the high levels detected, they can be taken up into plant tissues and result in levels of residues in nectar and pollen that may harm pollinators or in leaves or other plant parts that are consumed by birds and mammals. Information on the profile and characteristics specific to each of the chemicals in the wastewater is available at: https://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=chemicalsearch:1

The EPA has a comprehensive and robust assessment process for assessing the environmental effects of a chemical used as a pesticide, but the wastewater produced by the Nebraska ethanol facility represents a level of contamination that has no uniformity or limit on the number and amount of pesticides present. The EPA cannot conclude that discharging this water onto land will not result in unreasonable adverse effects on humans or the environment.

From: Curtis, Glenn <curtis.glenn@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2020 8:22 AM
To: Robichaud, Jeffery <Robichaud.Jeffery@epa.gov>; Huffman, Diane <Huffman.Diane@epa.gov>

Cc: Dunn, John <Dunn.John@epa.gov>; Green, Jamie <Green.Jamie@epa.gov>
Subject: Alt En

First Document: 10-28-2020 - Current NDEE permit
Second Document: 5-20-2020 NDEE letter denying land application request
Third Document: 10-16-2020 NDEE letter denying request – consideration now as special waste
Fourth Document: Nebraska Alt En lagoon sample results and string of correspondence between R7, NDEE and HQ OPP – see request for OWM contribution to Doc 5 below
Fifth Document: Draft OPP letter

Jeff/Diane
There is a long history of correspondence on this facility. NPDES, Pesticides, and Solid Waste involved.

Quick summary is: Alt En is using treated corn as a feedstock. NPDES permit just in place for discharge of non-contact cooling water (001) and land-app of process water contained in a lagoon and applied through a center pivot. See Doc 1. Permit includes GW monitoring/limits for five pesticides, supported by an approved plan. Ex. 7(A) NDEE has corresponded denying request. See Doc 2 and 3.
There has been ongoing communication between R7 and NDEE for some time. R7 referred this to HQ OPP. See Doc 4 – email string.

Ex. 7(A)